

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 DHA-02 EB-07 IO-14 /092 W
-----110634Z 025568 /14

R 102015Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9066
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 943

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: THE FRENCH AND THE LANGUAGE ISSUE

REF: MONTREAL 906

1. MINISTER LAURIN HAS BEEN GETTING HIS LUMPS EDITORIALY IN THE FRANCOPHONE PRESS FOR HIS REJECTION OF THE LETTER FROM 326 PROMINENT QUEBECOIS (REFTEL). THE GENERAL THRUST IS THAT THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH HIM SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO SCURRILOUS ATTACKS ON THEIR MOTIVES; ONE CAN FIND THINGS WRONG WITH BILL ONE AND STILL BE A TRUE QUEBECOIS. ISSUES, NOT PERSONALITIES, SHOULD BE THE CONSIDERATION.

2. ON THE EVE OF THE HEARINGS, CTV BROADCAST THROUGHOUT ITS ENGLISH NETWORK A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT "ORDINARY" FRANCOPHONES ALSO FIND THINGS WRONG WITH THE BILL. PROGRAM WAS RE-BROADCAST THREE DAYS LATER. AFTER REVIEWING HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PROVINCE, PROGRAM FOCUSSED ON POLL OF 629 FRANCO-PHONES IN FIVE MAJOR CITIES, GIVING RESULTS IN MONTREAL/OUTSIDE MONTREAL TERMS. MOST IMPORTANT SPECIFICS WERE:

(A) DO YOU APPROVE OF THE PQ GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE
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LANGUAGE ISSUE? YES: MONTREAL, 49.2 O/O; OUTSIDE, 57.2 O/O.
NO: MONTREAL, 34.2 O/O; OUTSIDE, 30.5 O/O. NO OPINION: MONTREAL, 16.6 O/O; OUTSIDE, 12.3 O/O. REASON GIVEN FOR APPROVAL WAS PREDOMINANTLY THE "PRIMACY OF FRENCH" (70 O/O); REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL WERE MORE SCATTERED BUT 50 O/O SAID THEY BELIEVED PARENTS SHOULD HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE OF SCHOOLING FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

(B) ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR QUEBEC PARENTS, 63.9 O/O OF MONTREALERS SAID YES; FIGURE ROSE TO 72.8 O/O OUTSIDE. RE CANADIAN PARENTS COMING FROM OTHER PROVINCES TO QUEBEC, THE FIGURES DROPPED TO 55.6 O/O AND 58.5 O/O RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO IMMIGRANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, ONLY 35.8 O/O OF MONTREALERS AND 50.3 O/O OF OTHERS THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE ENGLISH OR FRENCH SCHOOLS. (COMMENT: MINISTER LAURIN REJECTED THESE RESULTS: "THAT CANNOT BE TRUE OR ALL THREE PARTIES WOULD NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO RESTRICT THIS CHOICE"; "WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN IS THAT THEY WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO LEARN ENGLISH AND WE WILL MAKE THAT AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN THE FRENCH SCHOOL SYSTEM.")

(C) DO YOU FEEL THREATENED (I.E. AS A FRANCOPHONE IN A "DOMINANT" ANGLOPHONE MILIEU)? MONTREALERS: YES, 36.1 O/O; NO, 62.3 O/O. OUTSIDE: YES, 47.8 O/O; NO, 51.6 O/O. (COMMENT: THESE ARE PERHAPS THE MOST SURPRISING OF THE POLL STATISTICS, CONSIDERING THAT MONTREAL IS THE SEAT OF "ANGLOPHONE DOMINATION" OF THE ECONOMY.)

(D) MAJOR CONCERNS WERE GIVEN BY MONTREALERS AS: LANGUAGE, UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. OUTSIDE, UNEMPLOYMENT TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER LANGUAGE; THE ECONOMY RETAINED THIRD PLACE.

3. COMMENT: MINISTER LAURIN HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY PLACID, INDEED HAS SEEMED TO ENJOY, ANGLOPHONE CRITICISM. HE HAS EQUALLY CONSISTENTLY LAPSED INTO INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE WHEN COUNTERED BY FRANCOPHONES. NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE WISHES IT HOWEVER, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE FACT, AND PUBLICIZING, OF FRANCOPHONE DISSENT WILL GO AWAY. THE RISK GROWS DAILY THAT

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DR. LAURIN AND HIS BILL MAY DO AS MUCH TO DIVIDE THE FRANCOPHONES FROM EACH OTHER AS FROM THE ANGLOPHONES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, PRESS COMMENTS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTRE00943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770209-0066
Format: TEL
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770669/aaaacinc.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9322667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONTREAL 906
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2196702
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE FRENCH AND THE LANGUAGE ISSUE
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9322667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009